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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/115,654	07/15/1998	YOSHINORI SHIBATA	98092	1628

7590 12/03/2002

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EXAMINER

DEXTER, CLARK F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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26

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

See attachment.

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MISCELLANEOUS ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The reply filed on August 23, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): Regarding the rejections to the claim language directed to the lock structure, specifically in claims 21, 42, 49, etc., it is respectfully submitted that a sufficient response has not been provided therefor. Applicant has not amended the claims and argues that “[A]n actuator is not a necessary component of every lock and thus, it is inappropriate to read the element of an actuator into claim 18.” The Examiner’s position is not that it is necessary to recite an actuator (or a screw) when claiming a lock. Rather, it is the Examiner’s position that when claiming an actuator (or the screw of the locking mechanism) after setting forth a lock, the actuator must be claimed as part of the lock as described in the specification. That is, when looking to the specification to determine the scope of the term “lock,” the specification provides definitions in the form of “slide lock mechanism 60” and “pivot lock mechanism 110.” Thus, it is not clear as to what disclosed structure “actuator” refers when it is claimed in addition to “lock,” particularly since it is disclosed as being part of the lock (e.g., see page 17, lines 15-16; also see Figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9). See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to

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supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clark Dexter whose telephone number is (703) 308-1404. The examiner's typical work schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and he can be reached during normal business hours on these days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Allan Shoap, can be reached at (703)308-1082.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148. The fax numbers for this group are: formal papers - (703)305-3590; informal/draft papers - (703)305-9835.



Clark F. Dexter
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3724

cf
December 2, 2002